

Dangerous Creatures in South Africa

～南アの危険な仲間たち～

Sneaks, Scorpions, & Spiders

- Very Dangerous Creatures around IRSF
 - **Yellow Sneak**
 - > must be Cape Cobra!! (rare but witnessed, strong venom)
 - **Scorpion with a thick tail and thin claws**
 - > must be Thick-tailed Scorpion!! (witnessed, strong venom)



Serum/Antivenom@SALT Dome (SALTドームに血清があります)



CAPE COBRA

Naja nivea

Other names
Kaapse Kobra, Geel-
slang, Koperkapel (A)



Average 1,2 m
Maximum 2 m



Juvenile showing the characteristic dark markings on the throat.

Preferred habitat

Fynbos, Karoo, arid savanna and Namib Desert where it inhabits rodent burrows, disused termite mounds and rock crevices in arid regions. It is frequently found near human dwellings on farms, especially in the Karoo. Also inhabits partially



Brown-speckled Cape Cobra

developed suburbs and small communities where it often rises to escape the heat of the day.

Restricted largely to the Western, Eastern and Northern Cape, and the Free State, Botswana and Namibia.

Habits

Active during the day and in the evenings, when it may be seen in trees in search of food. When attacked this nervous snake raises its head, spreading a broad, impressive hood. It cannot spit venom. Once on the defensive it strikes readily. If the aggressor is motionless, the snake will coil on to the ground and most of its body snap back into its defensive posture. It detects movement.



Brown-speckled form, most common



Above: A bright yellow form of the Cape Cobra. Bottom right: A Cape Cobra in threat display.

Similar species

Cape Cobras vary dramatically in colour and may be confused with other cobras and with the Mole Snake.

Enemies

Wolves, foxes and other snakes.

Cape Cobras often frequent human dwellings, sometimes entering houses. Bites are common and account for most snake-bite fatalities in the Eastern, Northern and Western Cape regions.

Food and feeding

Feeds on rodents, birds, other snakes, lizards and toads. Will climb into trees to reach fledgling birds in their nests and to raid sociable weavers' nests.

Reproduction

Gregarious, laying 8-20 eggs (60-69 x 24-30 mm) in mid-summer. Hatchlings measure 36-40 cm in length.

Danger to man

An extremely dangerous cobra that stands its ground when confronted. Bites are common and often fatal, the victim dying of suffocation.



The harmless Mole Snake, often mistaken for the Cape Cobra, is distinguished by its more pointed snout.

Venom

A highly neurotoxic venom, most potent of any African cobra. As with Black Mamba bites, artificial respiration could keep the victim alive until sufficient quantities of antivenom have been injected.

First-aid procedures

- Immobilise and reassure the patient, who must lie down and be kept as quiet as possible.
- Apply a pressure bandage immediately (see page 9) and immobilise the limb with a splint to reduce the spread of venom.
- Loosen, but do not remove, the bandage if there is severe swelling.



LOOK OUT FOR

- Body colour variable, from black to brown, orange, yellow or mottled.
- Stands its ground and spreads a broad hood when confronted.
- Does not spit its venom.
- Active during the day and early evening.

注) 超危険。レアですが目撃例あり。



PUFF ADDER

Bitis arietans

Other names
Pofadder (A)



Average 90 cm
Maximum 1,7 m



LOOK OUT FOR

- A short, stubby snake with a triangular head distinct from the rest of the body.
- Yellow to grey-brown with distinct black chevrons on the back.
- May hiss or puff when disturbed.
- Usually found on the ground.

Preferred habitat

Common throughout most of southern Africa except for mountain tops, true desert and dense forests. It does not occur in and around the Johannesburg region.

Habits

A slow-moving, bad-tempered and excitable snake that may hiss or puff when disturbed. Usually found on the ground but it may venture onto small shrubs to sun itself. Mainly active at night, often basking on tarred roads, where it may be killed by passing vehicles.

It relies on its perfect camouflage to escape detection and will rather freeze than move off. People often step onto or close to Puff Adders and then get bitten. Like most other snakes, this snake swims well.

Similar species

May be confused with the Gaboon Adder or some of the smaller adders. Note: None of the harmless snakes resemble the Puff Adder.

Enemies

Man, warthogs, birds of prey and other snakes (e.g. Snouted Cobra).

Food and feeding



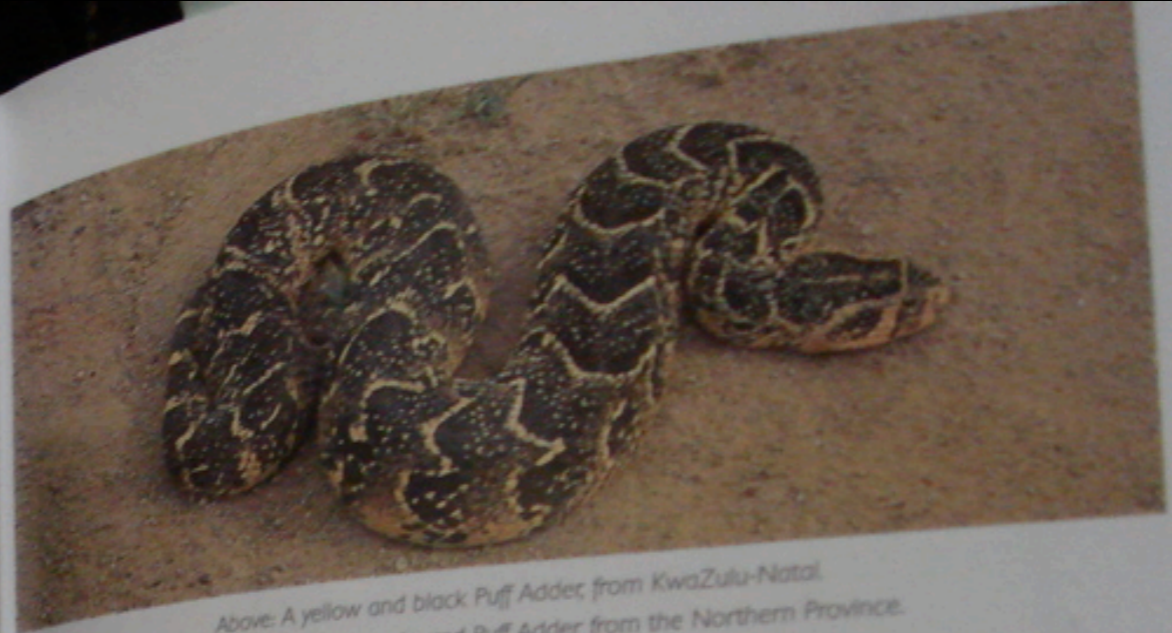
The long fangs inject a potent venom.

mammals, ground birds, lizards, bats and occasionally other snakes. Rodents are usually bitten and left to die. The Puff Adder then follows its prey's scent with a flicking tongue. The prey is swallowed head first.

Reproduction

Viviparous, giving birth in late summer to 20-40 young, though exceptional broods of 80 have been recorded. The young, measuring 6-20 cm, are born in a fine membranous sac from which they break free soon after birth. Large individuals from East Africa are known to produce more than 150 young, the largest number of any snake species in the world.

People are at risk of stepping onto Puff Adders at night as they often move about slowly once the sun has set.



Above: A yellow and black Puff Adder, from KwaZulu-Natal.
Opposite, centre: A dull-coloured Puff Adder from the Northern Province.

Danger to man

Because of its reliance on camouflage to escape detection, this bad-tempered snake with its long fangs (up to 18 mm) and potent venom features prominently in snake-bite accidents. The Puff Adder accounts for about 60% of serious snake bites in southern Africa. Although few of these bites prove fatal, this snake is still responsible for the majority of snake-bite deaths in this region.

Venom

A potent cytotoxic or cell-destroying venom that attacks tissue and blood cells. Other than immediate shock, symptoms include extreme pain, excessive swelling and sometimes blistering at the site of the bite. Most victims are bitten on the lower leg. Fortunately the venom is slow-acting, taking up to 24 hours or even more to

cause death if not treated or if treatment is unsuccessful. It is uncommon for victims to die in a shorter period of time. With fatal bites, the victims usually succumb to complications associated with extensive swelling or kidney failure. Antivenom will be required in serious cases.

First-aid procedures

- Immobilise and reassure the patient, who must lie down and be kept as quiet as possible.
- Apply a pressure bandage immediately (see page 9) and immobilise the limb with a splint to reduce the spread of venom.
- Loosen, but do not remove, the bandage if there is severe swelling.
- Transport promptly to hospital.



注) マムシです。怒ると体を膨らませます(PUFF)。



CORAL SNAKE

Aspidelaps lubricus

DANGEROUS

Other names
Koraalslang (A)



Average 40 cm
Maximum 80 cm



Preferred habitat

Rocky outcrops, stony and dry sandy regions in the Namib Desert, arid savanna, Karoo and fynbos.

Habits

Spends much of its life underground, emerging at night to forage for food. Very active after rains, when many individuals are killed on roads by vehicles. It is a bad-tempered snake that spreads a narrow hood when cornered. It will strike repeatedly while hissing and lunging forward.

Similar species

The Tiger Snake and the Western Barred Spitting Cobra.

Enemies

Snakes and birds of prey.

Food and feeding

Feeds on lizards, small snakes and rodents.

Reproduction

Oviparous, laying 3-11 eggs (45-54 14-25 mm) in the summer months. The young measure from 17-18 cm in length.

When cornered, this snake will strike repeatedly, hissing and lunging forward at the same time.



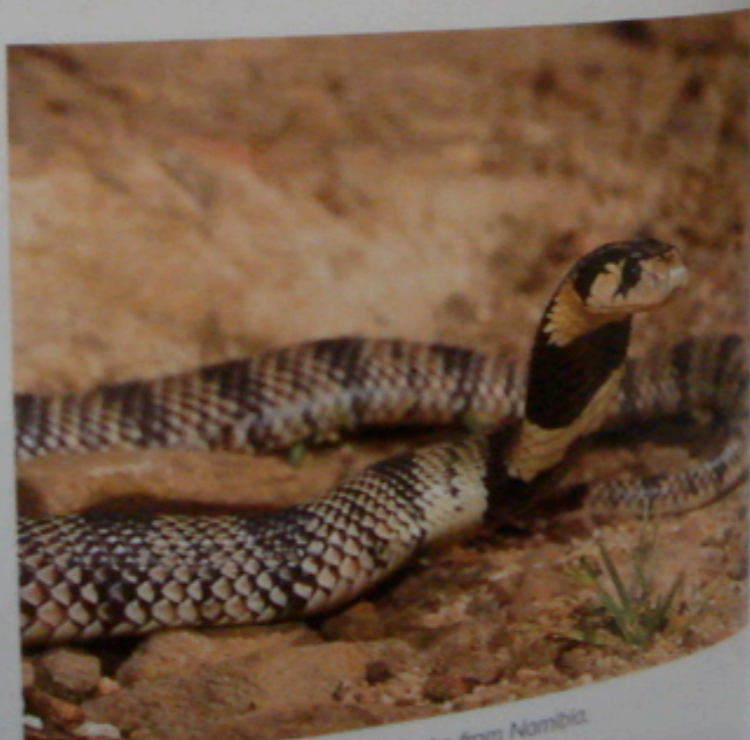
The Coral Snake is nocturnal and emerges at night to forage; it is also very active after rains.



The similar Western Barred Spitting Cobra.



The mildly venomous Tiger Snake is similarly patterned.



from Namibia

LOOK OUT FOR

- Several black cross-bars down the length of its body.
- Specimens from Namibia have a distinct black head.
- Lifts its head off the ground and spreads a narrow hood.
- Strikes repeatedly while hissing and lunging forward.

Danger to man

Bites from this snake in South Africa have not resulted in life-threatening symptoms but in Namibia this snake has reportedly killed two children.

Venom

Very little is known about this snake's venom but it is believed to be dangerously neurotoxic, and victims must be treated promptly.

First-aid procedures

- Immobilise and reassure the patient, who must lie down and be kept as quiet as possible.
- Apply a pressure bandage immediately (see page 9) and immobilise the limb with a splint to reduce the spread of venom.
- Loosen, but do not remove the bandage.

MOLE SNAKE

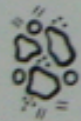
Pseudaspis cana

HARMLESS

Other names
Molslang (A)



Average 1-1,4 m
Maximum 2 m



LOOK OUT FOR

- Varies tremendously in colour from nearly black to light brown. Juveniles often have rhombic markings.
- Pointed snout and small head.
- Spends much of its time underground in animal burrows.

Preferred habitat

A variety of habitats including mountainous regions and even desert. Particularly common in sandy scrub-covered and grassveld regions.

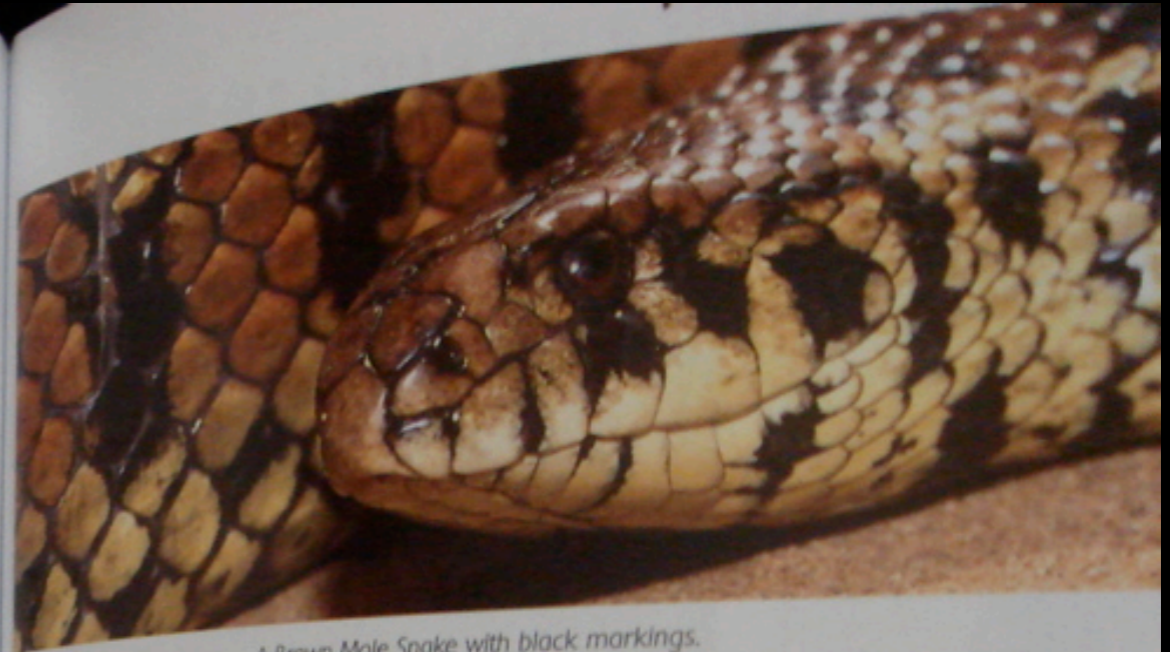
Habits

A large powerful constrictor with a pointed snout and a small head very well adapted for its burrowing existence. It spends most of its time underground in search of food. Here it pushes its way through soft sand in search of moles and other rodents. Its prey is usually seized by the head and constricted.

Adult males are known to engage in combat during the mating season, biting one another and inflicting non-lethal wounds, which often result in permanent scars. The Mole Snake, although not venomous, can be quite vicious when threatened and will hiss and lunge forward with its mouth open. Unfortunately, this useful snake is often mistaken for a cobra or mamba and is usually killed on sight.

Similar species

May be confused with the Black Mamba or a cobra, especially the Cape Cobra.



A Brown Mole Snake with black markings.



A dark brown variety of the Mole Snake.



A sub-adult Mole Snake with black mottling.

Enemies

Predatory birds and snakes. Many individuals are killed by vehicles while basking on tarred roads.

Food and feeding

Adults feed on rats, moles, gerbils and other small mammals and birds. Juveniles feed largely on lizards.

Reproduction

Sexual, giving birth to an average 25-50 young or as many as 95 in late summer. The newborn snakes measure 20-30 cm in length.

Danger to man





BOOMSLANG

Dispholidus typus

VERY DANGEROUS

Other names
Boomslang (A)



Average 1,2 m
Maximum 2 m

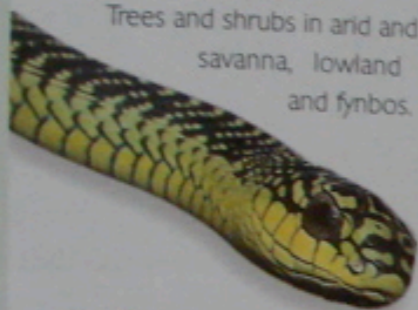


LOOK OUT FOR

- Usually in trees.
- Enormous eyes and a short stubby head.
- Colour variable: juveniles (less than 40 cm) usually grey with huge emerald eyes. Adult females usually brown. Males bright green, sometimes with black-edged

Preferred habitat

Trees and shrubs in arid and moist savanna, lowland forest and fynbos.



Habits

A shy diurnal snake that spends most of its time in trees and shrubs. It may descend to the ground to bask or hunt for food, but is quick to disappear into the leafy concealment of the closest tree when disturbed. It is extremely well camouflaged and very difficult to detect.

The Boomslang actively hunts for food during the day and mostly in trees. When food is spotted, it freezes, moves its head from side to side and then swoops onto its prey, holding it firmly in its jaws while the fangs move with a chewing motion.

When provoked the Boomslang will inflate its neck to twice its normal size, exposing the bright skin between the scales. In this state, it will not hesitate to strike and will do so with jerky movements. However, very few people have been bitten by the Boomslang.

It is a popular fallacy that the Boomslang, being back fanged, cannot easily bite and must get hold of one's finger to inject venom. This is not true. The Boomslang can open its

Similar species

Often confused with the Black and Green mambas and with the less green snakes of the genus *Philothamnus*.

Enemies

Predatory birds and other snakes. Birds such as bulbuls often mob

Food and feeding

Actively hunts chameleons and other tree-living lizards, birds, nestling eggs (swallowed whole) and fruit. Small mammals are seldom taken.

Reproduction

Oviparous, laying 8-14 or as many as 27 eggs (27-53 x 18-37mm) in spring to mid-summer. The young measure 29-38 cm.

Danger to man

Though deadly venomous, this snake very seldom bites. Most victims have been snake handlers and attendants.



The female is usually brown in color. The male Boomslang



A brightly coloured male Boomslang with black markings, from KwaZulu-Natal.

Venom

Potently haemotoxic, causing severe bleeding internally and from the mucous surfaces. May result in fatal haemorrhage if untreated. Although the venom is extremely potent it is slow-acting and may take more than 24-48 hours to produce serious symptoms. An effective Boomslang antivenom is available from the South African Institute of Medical Research in Johannesburg. Victims should be hospitalised for at least 48 hours.

First-aid procedures

- Immobilise and reassure the patient, who must lie down and be kept as quiet as possible.
- Apply a pressure bandage immediately (see page 9) and immobilise the limb with a splint to reduce the spread of venom.
- Loosen, but do not remove, the bandage if there is severe swelling.
- Transport promptly to hospital.



The juvenile has very large emerald eyes.

The chances of being bitten by this snake are extremely remote unless one actually handles it. Never handle any small snakes, especially if brought into the house by a cat.



The Rufous Beaked Snake is

注) ヤマカガシです。

Thick-tailed Scorpions

Uroplectes

Family Buthidae.

Afrikaans name:
Dikstertskerpioene.

Average size: Length: 25–70 mm.

Identification: Often brightly coloured with pigmented areas. Small pincers, thick tail. Bump often visible on inside curve of sting.

Where found: Throughout region, from KwaZulu-Natal dune forests to the Namib. Under rocks, sand and loose tree bark, and in vegetation.

Notes: Responsible for most scorpion stings in southern Africa; more venomous than *Opisthophthalmus*.

Venom: Sting very painful but seldom requires medical attention.

Food: Insects, spiders and other small invertebrates.



Uroplectes lineatus

Common species: *Uroplectes triangulifer* and *U. vittatus* (North-West Province, Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, Gauteng); *U. carinatus* (as above and Cape Provinces); *U. olivaceus* (North-West Province, Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal); *U. lineatus* (Western Cape); *U. planimanus* (Limpopo Province, North-West Province).

Similar genera: *Hottentotta*, *Lychas*, *Pseudolychas*, *Parabuthus*, *Karasbergia*. *H. arenaceus*, *H. conspersus* and *Parabuthus brevimanus* are comparable in size to *Uroplectes* species.

Parabuthus

Family Buthidae.

Afrikaans name:
Dikstertskerpioene.

Average size: Length: 40–180 mm.

Identification: Varies greatly from yellow to black. Last two tail segments blackened or darker in some species.

Where found: Throughout the region in areas that receive less than 600 mm of rainfall annually. More diverse in arid areas. Construct burrows in various places such as under stones and vegetation or in open ground.

Habits: May produce a sound by scraping the tip of the sting over the first two tail segments. A few species spray venom when extremely provoked.

Notes: Most serious stings can be attributed to this genus. *P. villosus*,



Parabuthus capensis

the largest member of this family in the world, is diurnal⁶.

Venom: Very potent venom. Responsible for a handful of deaths annually.

Food: Small to medium-sized insects and fellow arachnids.

Common species: *Parabuthus capensis*, *P. granulatus*, *P. villosus*, *P. transvaalicus*.

Similar genera: *Uroplectes*, *Hottentotta*, *Lychas*, *Pseudolychas*, *Karasbergia*. *Uroplectes* are found in a variety of habitats, often in dry areas.

注) 超危険。目撃例あり。ハサミが立派で尾が細いやつはたいしたことないそうです。

Black Button Spider

Latrodectus indistinctus

Family Theridiidae.

Afrikaans name: Swart kaopiesspinnekop.

Average size: Length: f 11–16 mm, m 3–4 mm; leg span up to 40 mm.

Identification: Black, globose abdomen^o with dull red dot or stripe on upper surface. Long legs, with third pair shortest. Male brown, smaller than female.

Where found: Open veld; rocks, low vegetation, grass, leaf litter and rotting logs; wheatlands.

Habits: Nocturnal^o. Sedentary^o and web-bound. Shams death when threatened.

Notes: There are nine African species in the genus. Known as 'Black Widow Spider' for its habit of sometimes eating male after mating.

Venom: Strongly neurotoxic^o; potentially fatal.



Dew-drop Spiders

Argyrodes

Family Theridiidae; subfamily Argrodesinae.

Afrikaans name: Duiwreppelspinnekoppe.

Average size: Length: 3–5 mm.

Identification: Conical, metallic-silver abdomen^o; long, tapering legs with the third pair thinnest and comb^o on fourth leg.

Where found: Other spiders' webs.

Habits: Sedentary^o and web-bound. Kleptoparasite^o, living in webs of other spiders, where it eats discarded prey remains; some species prey on the hosts themselves. Some species make a grating noise (stridulate) to attract mates.

Notes: There are 31 African species in the genus.

Venom: Harmless to man.

Web: None.

Food: Insects.

Other genera: Button Spiders (*Latrodectus*), False Button Spiders (*Steatoda*), House Spiders (*Theridion*).

Similar species: Some other spiders of family Theridiidae.



Argyrodes

注) Black Widow。超危険。腹が赤いのが特徴。目撃例不明。

Rain or Lizard-eating Spiders

Palystes and *Parapalystes*

Family Heteropodidae.

Afrikaans name:

Reenspinnekoppe.

Average size: Length: up to 30 mm; leg span up to 110 mm.

Identification: Large. Dark brown to greyish, with slightly darker markings on abdomen^g. Carapace^g covered with fine hairs. Long, robust legs banded yellow and dark brown below.

Where found: Widely distributed. Mainly on plants; also rocks, leaf litter and rotting logs. Often seen around human habitation.



Habits: Nocturnal^g. Free-running; does not construct web. In defence, front legs are raised high over head, showing dense brush of red hairs on chelicerae^g.

Notes: There are 14 African species in the genus.

Venom: Usually harmless to man but can cause toxic reactions in some people.

Web: None.

Food: Insects such as crickets; geckos.

Reproduction: Large balls of papery white silk and leaves built for egg sac; female remains nearby to protect eggs and spiderlings.

Other genera: *Panaretella*, *Pseudomicrommata*.

Similar species: Baboon Spiders (family Theraphosidae) lack yellow and are

White Ladies

Pseudomicrommata

Family Heteropodidae.

Afrikaans name: Wit dames.

Average size: Length: 15–28 mm; leg span up to 90 mm.

Identification: Large. Coloration varies, from whitish to cream, brown and clay-yellow. Carapace^g longer than it is wide, covered with fine straw-grey to light brown hairs. Long, robust legs armed with spines.

Where found: Dune areas of Namib desert and north-western Cape.



Habits: Nocturnal^g. Free-running. Lives in trapdoor tunnel in loose sand. Common name 'Dancing White Lady' due to frenzied, prancing hunting behaviour.

Notes: There are eight African species in the genus.

Venom: Harmless to man.

Web: None.

Food: Insects such as desert crickets; spiders; geckos.

Other genera: Forest Huntsman Spiders (*Panaretella*), Rain or Lizard-eating Spiders (*Palystes*), Rock Huntsman Spiders (*Olios*), Wheeling Spiders (*Carparachne*), Grass Spiders (*Pseudomicrommata*).

Similar species: Other spiders of family Heteropodidae, particularly Wheeling Spiders (*Carparachne*), but these are smaller.

注) 毒はナシ(左)。体長10cmくらい。10 mile/hrで走る。キバが大きく咬まれると大変。(神鳥目撃)